

**Whereas**, the nearly 72,000 Registered Nurses in the state of Missouri comprise the largest component of the healthcare profession, with 1,500 of those nurses working at Saint John's Mercy Medical Center; and

**Whereas**, the depth and breadth of the Registered Nursing profession meet the different and emerging healthcare needs of the Missouri population in a wide range of settings; and

**Whereas**, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655, as the voice for nurses of this state, is working to chart a new course for a healthy state that relies on increasing delivery of primary and preventative healthcare; and

**Whereas**, the Registered Nurses of UFCW Local 655 have a renewed emphasis on primary and preventative healthcare and a vision of empowering, retaining, and incentivising all RNs through collective bargaining and by holding the first RN union contract in an acute care facility in the state of Missouri; and

**Whereas**, professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients; and

**Whereas**, the demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home health; and

**Whereas**, more qualified nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of healthcare consumers in the community; and

**Whereas**, the cost-effective, safe, and quality healthcare services provided by Registered Nurses will be an even more important component of the U.S. healthcare delivery system in the future:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the Registered Nurses of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 at Saint John's Mercy Medical Center as they celebrate National Nurses Week 2003 from May 6 to May 12 with the theme, "Nurses: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives"; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation to the Registered Nurses of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 655 at Saint John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Patricia Yaeger  
District No. 96

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2137, adopted April 23, 2003.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker